

PROVIDER BULLETIN

PROVIDER INFORMATION



November 1, 2021

Evaluation and Management Reimbursement Changes

Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Minnesota and Blue Plus (Blue Cross) will be implementing changes related to Evaluation and Management (E&M) Codes for commercial claims.

High Level E&Ms billed with Preventive Visits

Blue Cross has historically denied level 4 and 5 E&M codes, 99214 and 99215, when billed with a preventive E&M. Due to the change in definition for E&M codes effective January 1, 2021, Blue Cross will immediately remove this edit and update the reimbursement policy “Evaluation and Management – 001 Evaluation and Management Services” to reflect that change. Removing this edit will allow for upfront payment and remove the need for providers to appeal the denials with supporting medical records. Claims that deny prior to the removal of the edit will still require a provider appeal to be submitted. Blue Cross reserves the right to audit claims post-payment to ensure that the correct E&M level is submitted.

Modifier -25 Fee Schedule Reduction

Effective for dates of service beginning January 1, 2022, Blue Cross will be implementing a 20% reduction in the allowed amount for E&M codes 99202-99498 submitted with modifier -25 on a professional claim. A Relative Value Units (RVU) includes an allowance for the coverage of overhead costs called the Practice Expense (PE) and averages around 45% of the total RVU in the office setting. In the facility setting, a PE RVU is included in the total RVU at a smaller percentage; however, overhead is also paid on the facility claim. This reduction reduces the duplication of the payment of overhead for the E&M that is billed in addition to a procedure or a preventive visit. The reimbursement policies, “General Coding – 001 Modifier Policy” and “Evaluation and Management – 001 Evaluation and Management Services”, will be updated to reflect this change.

Lines of Business Impacted

Commercial lines of business, including Federal Employee Program (FEP).

Questions?

If you have questions, please contact provider services at **(651) 662-5200** or **1-800-262-0820**.